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COUNTRY East Germany

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

TOPIC Military Information from Bernau

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EVALUATION [REDACTED] PLACE OBTAINED 25X1 [REDACTED]

DATE OF CONTENT 1 to 16 March 1954

632748

DATE OBTAINED [REDACTED] 25X1 DATE PREPARED 6 April 1954

REFERENCES [REDACTED]

PAGES 25 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) [REDACTED]

REMARKS [REDACTED]

ILLEGIB [REDACTED]

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1. In early and mid-March 1954, the Luftnachrichten Kaserne (4241), Bernau, was occupied by about 1,200 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets with tank and artillery insignia. Heavy weapons observed included 20 x 57-mm AT guns, 11 x 76-mm AT guns, about 30 T-34 tanks, 12 x 80-mm mortars, 8 x 120-mm mortars and 1 SU-85 gun. On 12 March, the 12 tanks, which had been entrained on 4 March, were detrained at the Bernau railroad station. Trucks [REDACTED] belonged to the installation.

2. In early and mid-March, the restricted area on Karl Marx Strasse (4248) was occupied by about 80 officers wearing red-bordered black epaulets. On 1 March, about 35 young officers with baggage entered the installation from the railroad station. At about 10 a.m. on 3 March, about 70 officers carrying briefcases and map pouches returned to the installation. In mid-March, [REDACTED] unusually many women with children in the installation. Trucks seen at the installation: [REDACTED]

3. In early and mid-March, former Army Clothing Depot I (4244) was occupied by about 1,200 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia. Heavy weapons observed included 10 x 100-mm AT guns and 30 x 76-mm and 57-mm AT guns. Infantry training and instruction on AT guns was observed during the period under review. Trucks [REDACTED] belonged to the installation. The damaged building north of the depot had been reconditioned for about 65 Soviet families.

4. In mid-March, the former SS Brieftaubenstation (homing pigeon station) (4243) was occupied by about 300 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia. Twelve 37-mm AA guns were observed. On 12 March, 8 x 37-mm AA guns and 10 trucks were detrained at the Bernau railroad station. Truck [REDACTED] was observed at the installation.

5. On 4 March, about 25 to 30 T-34 tanks [REDACTED] and about 12 to 15 trucks were entrained at the Bernau freight station. On 6 March, 22 x 100-mm AT guns and about 10 to 12 trucks [REDACTED] were entrained at the Bernau railroad station. The guns and trucks allegedly belonged to the unit stationed in Army Clothing Depot I. [REDACTED] additional 40 x 76-mm AT guns from Army Clothing Depot I were entrained at the Bernau freight station on 10 March.

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6. On 16 March, about 20 trucks, [] 4 to 6 caterpillar tractors, 4 x 100-mm AT guns, 1 radio truck, 1 tank truck trailer, 1 ambulance and 4 boxcarloads of troops were entrained in Bernau, leaving toward Eberswalde.⁴

7. In the morning on 16 March, 6 x 100-mm AT guns, 6 caterpillar tractors and 10 trucks, [] and an undetermined number of troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets were loaded on a train of 22 flatcars at the Bernau railroad station. The train was unloaded in Fuerstenberg/Havel. []

1. [] Comment. It could not yet be determined, where the 12 tanks of the 34th Tank Tng Bn of the 6th Gds Mech Div were stationed between 4 and 12 March. From the general situation it is assumed that the unit engaged in advanced combat practice firing at the Templin troop training grounds. According to corresponding observations [], however, only 12 tanks and a few motor vehicles of the battalion were entrained on 4 March. Thus the number of tanks mentioned in paragraph 5 cannot be correct. []

2. [] Comment. The units of the 120th (?) AAA Regt of the 6th Gds Mech Div which transferred to Justerlog on 5 March, returned to Bernau on trains [] on 12 March.

3. [] Comment. On 6 March, elements of the 71st Light Arty Brig (US) went from Bernau to Neustrelitz on trains [] to participate in army exercises in the Mueritz Lake-Neuruppin area. []

4. [] Comment. [] presumably observed the same shipment of units of the 71st Light Arty Brig (US), which probably went to exercises. Fuerstenberg/Havel as place of destination is doubted, as exercises of the reinforced IX Mtz Rifle Corps started in this area after 15 March and joint exercises of units of two armies are improbable. A transfer to the Fuerstenberg/Oder area appears more credible, the more as, shipments of the 7th Gds Mech Div which left Frankfurt/Oder and Berlin-Schoeneweide at the same time tended to indicate that this division held an exercise in the Lieberose training area. Fuerstenberg/Oder is located at the eastern border of this area.

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